

RUBRIC FOR NEWS SUMMARIES

Level 5 – Level 5 represents not only mastery in writing but also mastery of a word processing program.

Mastery in Writing: The concepts used by the student to convey the information in the news article and the opinion of the student must be clearly expressed. In order to do this, the student must have excellent vocabulary and word usage skills and the ability to separate these concepts and reorder them so that the whole meaning is clear to the reader. Spelling and sentence structure will be perfect.

Mastery in Word Processing: There will be no typographical errors. Bold face type and italics will be used appropriately. Spacing, margins and sub-heading will be managed so that the content is clearer to the reader and easier to read. The work will be saved so that it can be used again if needed.

Level 4- Writing at this level is indicated by a less clear understanding of concepts in the news article. Vocabulary and word usage, while satisfactory, are not as skillfully used with occasional mistakes in word usage. Sentence structure may be long and complicated or too brief and organization is generally minimal. However this writer gets the idea across, but not as elegantly as the level 5 writer.

Word Processing at this level is indicated by the occasional typographical error, with less skill in bold face type and italics than is seen at level 5. Sub-heading may not be seen at all and organization is not enhanced by the word processing. The work will be saved.

Level 3 – Writing at this level is indicated by a less clear understanding of the concepts in the news article. Vocabulary is average with occasional misspellings, and there are occasional mistakes in word usage. Sentence structure is either very complicated or very simple, and organization is minimal. It sometimes takes several readings to understand the writer's meaning.

Word Processing at this level is indicated by more than one typographical error, and there may be no attempt to use bold face type or italics. There is no organization by the use of sub-heading. Organization is not enhanced by the word processing. There is no attempt to manage margins and spacing to improve the writing. The work may not be saved.

Level 2 – Writing at this level is indicated by a somewhat fuzzy understanding of the concepts in the news article. Vocabulary is simplistic with frequent errors in spelling and word usage. Sentence structure may be very complicated with frequent detours from the purpose of the paper. Organization, if you can call it that, is minimal. This is very difficult reading.

Word processing at this level may be better than the writing at this level. It will be characterized by some typographical errors, minimal use of margins, spacing, or sub-heading, and no effort to organize the work. It is common to see one long paragraph as the body of the essay.

Level – 1 - Writing at this level is frequently unreadable. It is difficult to tell whether a mistake is a typographical error or a writing problem. It is probable that the word processing at this level is better than the writing, although it is unlikely that there will be any organizational benefit derived from the word processing.